

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS

1416—9th STREET, ROOM 1310

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

(916) 445-9686



January 14, 1981

## NOTICE TO OPERATORS

This notice is to alert you to the notification and abandonment procedures that are required if a radioactive source is lost in an oil, gas, or geothermal well.

The state Department of Health Services has regulations regarding the loss of radioactive logging tools in wells. These regulations affect both service companies and operators. Requirements include:

- 1) Notification of the loss
- 2) Identification of the well
- 3) Proper abandonment procedures, which in general shall include:
  - a) Covering the radioactive source with a standard color-dyed (red iron oxide) cement plug (minimum 100') on top of which a whipstock or other approved deflection device shall be set.
  - b) Upon permanent abandonment of the well, a plaque shall be attached to the top of the casing in such a manner that re-entry cannot be accomplished without disturbing the plaque. The plaque shall carry the trefoil radiation symbol with a radioactive warning and shall be constructed of stainless steel or brass.
  - c) The plugging history filed with the Department of Health Services and the Division of Oil and Gas shall identify the well as an abandoned radioactive source well and shall show compliance with the required abandonment procedures.

In the event a radioactive source is lost, operators should contact the Department of Health Services in Sacramento at (916) 445-0931 (after work hours call (916) 391-7716) and the appropriate Division of Oil and Gas district office. Final instructions for remedial work or plugging procedures will be given by the Division of Oil and Gas after consultation with the Department of Health Services.

M. G. Mefferd  
State Oil and Gas Supervisor